

GAYAN SAMRAT USTAD AZMAT HUSSAIN KHAN DILRANG (1911 TO 1975)
(A DEDICATED MUSICIAN - POET AND A STAUNCH PATRIOT)

The departure of Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, from the scene of Indian Music, marks the end of an era, which has produced some of the greatest exponents of Indian classical music and Khayal Gayaki, Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan was a rarity among his contemporaries, He was a unique amalgam of a vocalist, poet, teacher and a sportsman, Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan was born, on 5th March, 1911 at Atrauli (Aligarh, U.P.)



Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, belonged to the very prestigious families of traditional musicians of the Atrauli (said to be Jaipur) Gharana, Khurja Gharana, and the Agra Gharana, which has given India such giants as Haji Ustad Altaf Hussain Khan, Ustad Allahdiya Khan, Ustad Vilayat Hussain Khan, Ustad Fayyaz Khan, Ustad Tanras Khan and many others.

The influences that shaped the life and career of Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, from very out-set, and the heritage which enabled him to master both music as well as poetry emanated from his family itself, His own Gharanas can boast of such stalwarts as Sangeet Samrat Ustad Allahdiya Khan, Haji Ustad Altaf Hussain Khan, Ustad Zahoor Khan "RAMDAS", Ustad Bade Karim Baksh Khan, Ustad Hande Imam Baksh, Ustad Khwaja Ahmed Khan and many others. Both music and poetry were inherited naturally by Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan and the legacy which he has left behind to the world of Indian Music is invaluable. His most fruitful contribution to music consists of the disciples he has left behind. They are a legion and the most famous among them are Ustad Aslam Khan, Pandit Jeetendra Abhishekhi, Ustad Yunus Hussain Khan, Smt. Hansa Wadkar, Smt. Durgabai Shirodkar, Shirgaokar sisters, Ustad Shafi Ahmed Khan, Shri T. L. Raju, Shri Datta Kerkar, Ustad Yaqub Hussain Khan, Shri Vajahat Hussain & Rafat Khan (his sons), to mention just a few. Vidyadaan had been his mission of life and he taught music to his students, with open heart. Most of his disciples used to get Taleem from him without any remuneration.

Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, was rigorously trained in music by Haji Ustad Altaf Hussain Khan (His maternal uncle) of Khurja Gharana since his early childhood. Later when he came to Bombay in 1930 he was very fortunate to receive an intense training and huge treasure of classical Bandhishes, from his paternal uncle Ustad Allahdiya Khan, of the Atrauli (Jaipur) Gharana. He also learnt number of Ragas and Classical compositions from the great Ustad Vilayat Hussain Khan (His Brother-in-law) of the Agra Gharana. In his top form he created his own individual style and won the love and admiration of the people because of his own inherent quality of singing which was original at the same time

traditional. His gayaki also possessed the impressions of great stalwarts like Ustad Shabboo Khansahab, and Ustad Fayyaz Khan Sahab. His Gayaki represented a happy fusion of Khurja, Atrauli (Jaipur), Agra and Delhi Gharanas. His father Ustad Khairat Ali Khan Sahab was an ascetic person as well as an accomplished Sitarist. Many of his ancestors were excellent Beenkars and scholars in Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit.

For more than four decades, Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan regaled audiences all over India. In the year 1948, when Govt. of India was celebrating the first anniversary of Independence, the All India Radio Delhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru invited Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan Sahab, for the inaugural programme alongwith other musicians like Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, Smt. Hirabai Barodekar and Ustad Ahmed Jan Thirakwa. In the year 1953, Khan Sahab travelled extensively in South India. He gave a rare programme at Trivendrum Music Academy. After the programme Smt. M. S. Subhalaxmi and Shri Shamanguddi Srinivas Iyer came personally to meet Khan Sahab. Later he also gave a concert at Smt. Subhalaxmi's residence and also discussed elaborately the north Indian and South Indian Ragas and their common features. In the year 1928 Azmat Khan Sahab, visited Nepal for music concerts and also in the year 1954, he was specially invited to perform at the Darbar of the King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan. This was one of his most successful music tours. One of the most memorable performances of his life was in the year 1944 organised by the Deval club of Kolhapur. There, Khan Sahab sang his own Raga and composition. The Raga was Dutia (Devta) Bhairav and the words were "Ja re kagwa piya ke des...." After this performance Ustad Fayyaz Khan Sahab was to sing, but he was so overwhelmed and extremely happy with the performance of young Azmat Hussain, that as a tribute he cancelled his item on that day and showered blessings and praises on him. Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan was such a great artiste, who combined so many influences within himself all of which were bounded together perfectly by his artistic perception and fertile imagination. He made the art of vocal music a memorable experience for listeners. His versatility was amazing for he sang Khayal, Dhurpad, Dhammar, Tappa, Tarana, Tirwat, Dadra and Thumri with equal ease. Besides he took audiences by surprise sometimes with exquisite renderings of Marathi Padas's and Rajasthani 'Ma'ands. Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan was a many faceted personality and each facet had a charm of its own. At the tender age of twenty five he came under the influence of Seemab Akbarabadi, an eminent Urdu poet of that time. Seemab was impressed by the youthful lyrics of Ustad Azmat Hussain and accepted him as a disciple. The poetic inclination of Ustad Azmat Hussain found expression in Ghazals, Poems and Poetic dramas, which he wrote under the pen-name Maykash Atraulvi. Like all truly great artiste he contributed to and enriched his great musical heritage. Under the pen-name of Dilrang he composed more than 150 bandishes in various Ragas as Todi, Shree, Marwa, Puriya Dhanshri, Malkauns, Kedara, Malsri, Chandrajog, Devta Bhairon (His own Ragas) Devgiri Bilawal, Bairagi, Bihagda, Bhopali, and Hindoli. His compositions stand out for their lyrics and beauty of form. Khan Sahab had been acknowledged as the greatest exponent of Khurja, Atrauli (Jaipur) Gharana, after Ustad Allahdiya Khan, and Haji Ustad Altaf Hussain Khan. Time can not obliterate the memory of his innumerable performances, each of which was a gem of purest ray

serene. Indeed, his masterly exposition of achhop (rare) Ragas breathtaking Taans and bewildering Layakari recalled to the minds of listeners Shakespeare's descriptions 'Age cannot wither her nor custom stale her infinite variety.' The individually unique style of Khan Sahab's Gayaki won him the titles of 'Tankaptan', 'Gayan Samrat', and 'Sangeet Sartaj'.

Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, stood out distinctly among most men because of his varied interests which included such diverse things as Urdu poetry, hunting, fishing and the culinary art. His versatility made a profound impress upon those, who came in touch with him. While his geniality and warmth conquered them. Self respect and dignity occupied the foremost place in the scheme of values. His simplicity was almost ascetic and he was endowed with an indomitable spirit which enabled him to face vicissitudes of life in the manner of stoic. His faith in ALLAH was proverbial, as he always used to say "Allah jo kuchh bhi Karega achha hi Karega".

Like his illustrious relatives Ustad Allahdiya Khan, and Ustad Vilayat Hussain Khan, Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, made Maharashtra his home and played a significant role in spreading and popularising north Indian music in the state. After his felicitation which was held on 30th April 1973, presided by Nawab Ali Yavar Jung (Governor of Maharashtra, then) the Govt. of Maharashtra granted him a life long pension. The Bombay Municipal Corporation, also paid a grand tribute to the Ustad by renaming a road in South Bombay as the GAYAN SAMRAT USTAD AZMAT HUSSAIN KHAN DILRANG MARG. The people of Maharashtra, perpetuated the memory of an artiste, a staunch patriot, who devoted more than fifty years of his life to the task of popularising Indian Music in Maharashtra, and a yeomen service to the whole nation. Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, also served All India Radio Bombay and New Delhi, as a music producer and advisor for more than twenty five years. Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, died in Bombay on 26th July 1975, after a brief illness. A great musician and a scholar, good man and a poet, who left his mark, leaving behind a trail of disciples, friends admirers and well-wishers. The word "AZMAT" means 'greatness' in Urdu and that is how Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, struck all those who came in touch with him.

Will the art of Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan, survive only in archives of All India Radio, N.C.P.A. and other institutions. The question has been disturbing the minds of all the admirers of Khan Sahab. The Ustad has at least 20 78 RPM records, released by then Columbia Co. The Gayaki of this great artiste has to be preserved by all means. It should also be released on cassettes and L.P. records, for the sake of posterity.

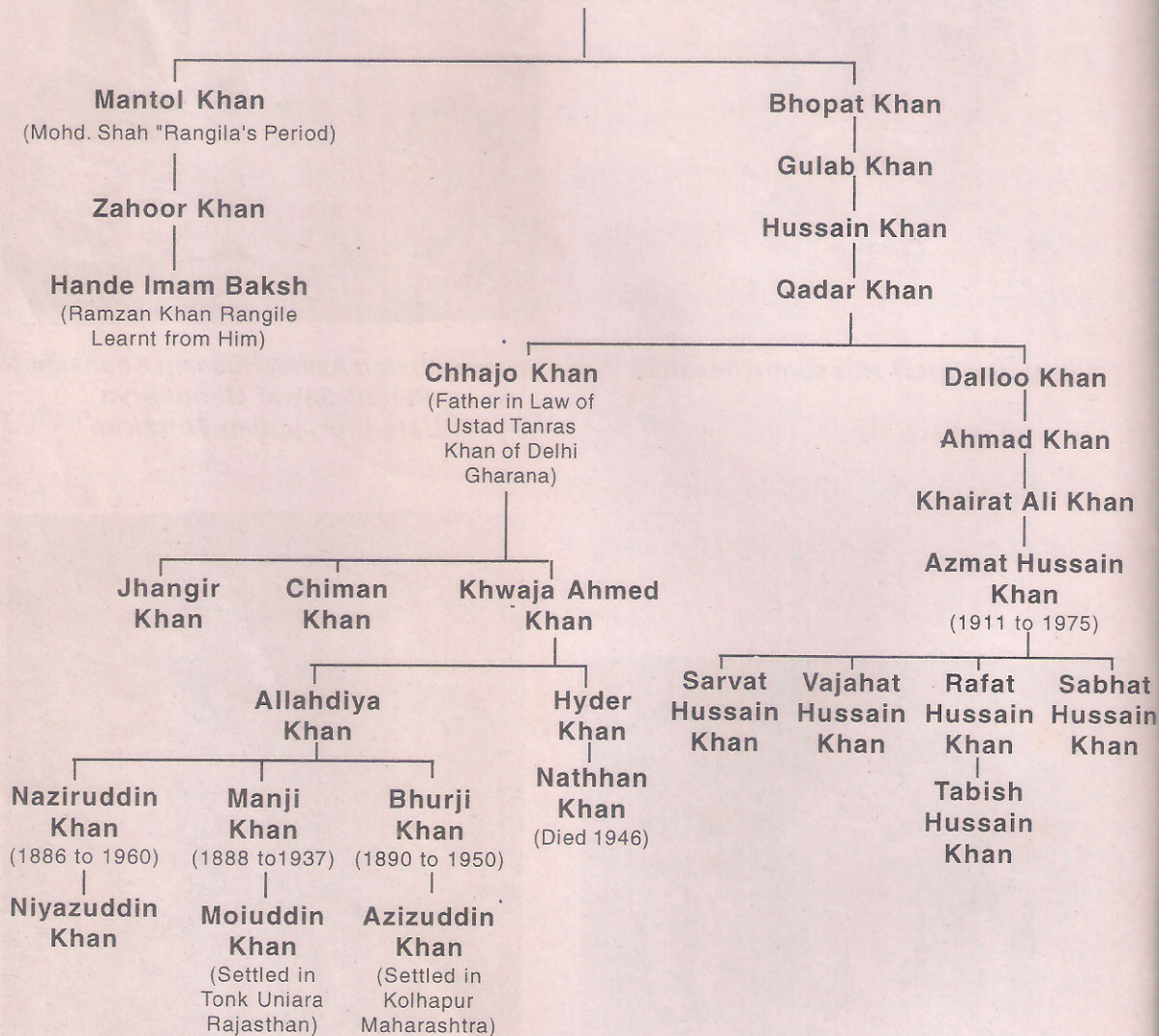
Out of the four sons of Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan Sahab, Vajahat Hussain Khan and Rafat Khan, are prospering in vocal music and Sitar respectively. However his real successor is Ustad Aslam Hussain Khan, was not only a Guru but also mentor, friend and benefactor. Ustad Aslam Khan who was his close associate for more than 20 years. To him, Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan is the chief disciple of Ustad Azmat Hussain Khan Sahab, and has done a remarkable progress in projecting, the image of his Ustad. The great tradition must go on.



Haji Ustad Altaf Hussain Khasahab

FAMILY TREE OF ATRAULI (JAIPUR) GHARANA (DAGURI BRANCH OF GOBARHAR BANI)

BADE KARIM BAKSH KHAN





*(L to R) Ustad Azmat Hussain Khansahab
Ustad Vilayat Hussain Khansahab*

FAMILY TREE OF KHURJA GHARANA OF NAUHAR BANI

MOHD. HUSSAIN KHAN *alias* **MENDHU KHAN**

JODHE KHAN

NATTHE KHAN

QAYAM KHAN

DAYAM KHAN

IMAM KHAN

GHULAM HUSSAIN KHAN
"ALLAH DAS"

ZAHOOR BAKSH KHAN "RAMDAS"

Four Daughters

Haji Altaf Hussain Khan

Wahid Hussain Khan
(Prabhudas & Wahidrang)

Mumtaz Hussain Khan

Javed Khan

Pavez Khusro

Arshad Khan

Rashid Khan

Taufiq Ahmed

Shakhawat Khan

Uvais Khan

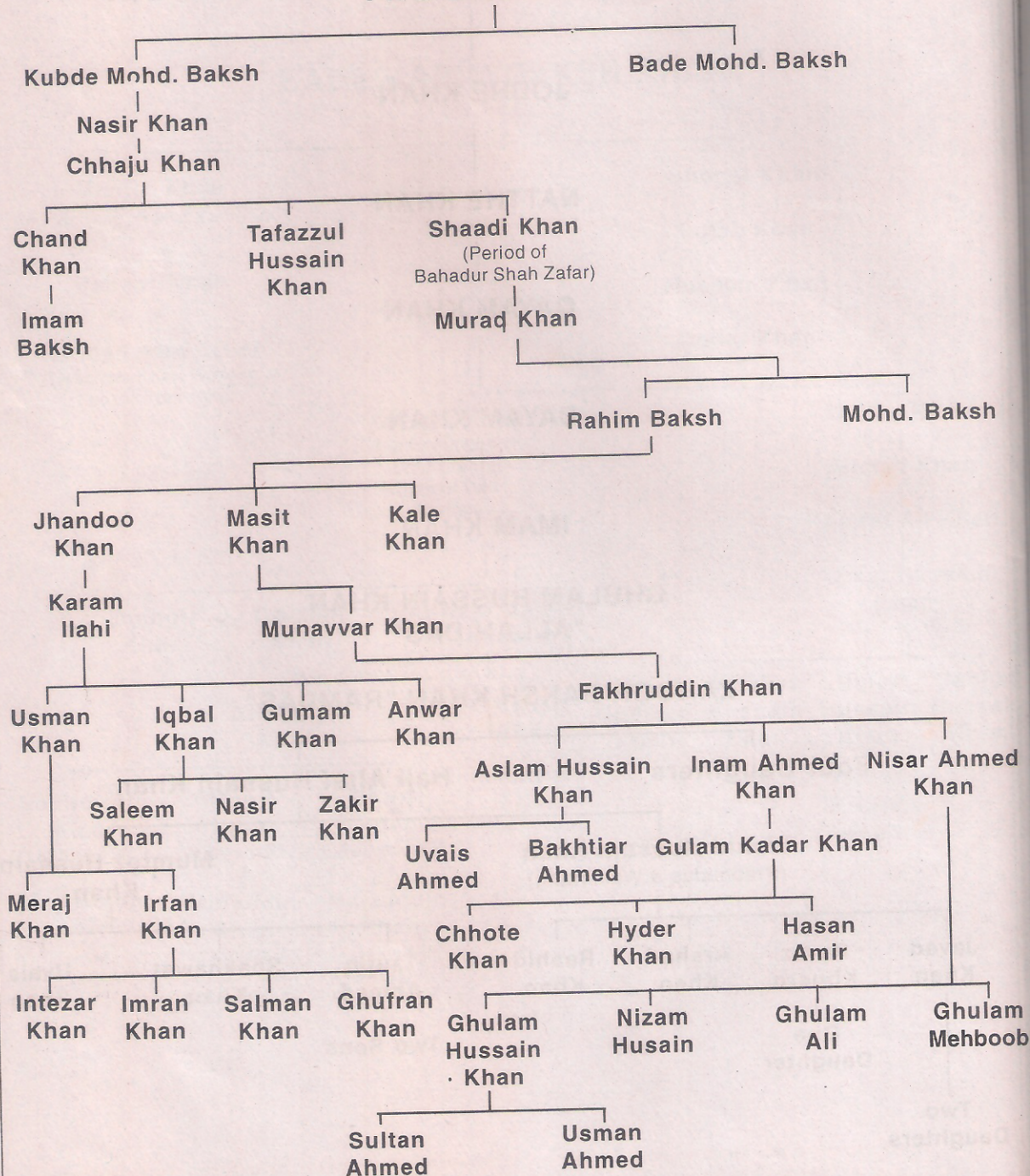
One Daughter

Two Sons

Two Daughters

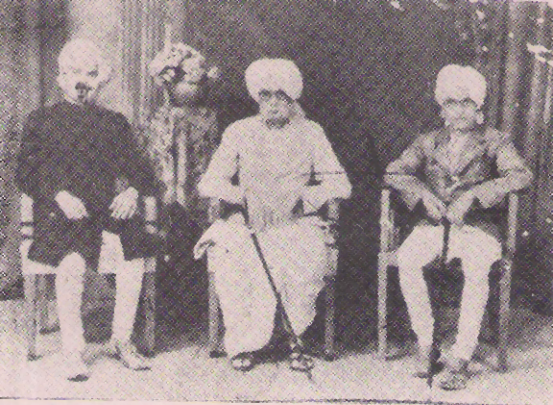
FAMILY TREE OF HAPUR GHARANA OF NAU HAR BANI

TWO BROTHERS





*(L to R) Ustad Azmat Hussain Khansahab
Pandit Sawai Gandharva
Ustad Ahmedjan Thirakwa*



*(L to R) Ustad Azmat Hussain Khansahab
Ustad Allahdiya Khansahab
Ustad Natthah Khan*